

Senate Bill 683 Testimony – May 29, 2018

My name is Claire Hammer and I am a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and Certified Diabetes Educator. I am representing the Michigan Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. In our March 6, 2018 testimony on SB 683 we had opposed the bill. Our concerns were in the areas of the bill that referred to "Dietary Counseling" which could be easily confused with "Medical Nutrition Therapy" (MNT) which Registered Dietitian Nutritionists practice. MNT is defined in the *Medicare Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 1999* as the "nutritional diagnostic, therapy, and counseling service for the purpose of disease management provided by a registered dietitian or nutrition professional".

Our Academy attorney and our Public Policy Committee have been working with Henry Buchtel from the Michigan Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine over the past several weeks to clarify the definition of "Dietary Counseling" in order to ensure that Registered Dietitian Nutritionists in Michigan are not negatively impacted in providing Medical Nutrition Therapy. We are satisfied that SB 683 defines Dietary Counseling "as the process of advising a patient about healthy food choices and healthy eating habits in accordance with East Asian Medical Theory".

The Michigan Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics no longer opposes SB 683 and remains neutral.

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